

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We will now proceed to Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Other than Senator Labedz, are there other lights on?

SPEAKER BAACK: No, there are not.

SENATOR WITHEM: Given the time, I will pass now and let Senator Labedz speak, and then say what I was going to say in my closing.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Withem. Thank you, Mr. President. I rise again in opposition to LB 17. I have only been involved in one petition drive in my life, and when Senator Schmit mentioned the fact that he might hire me, I got very upset because since then I have had people come forward and ask me to sign petitions, and I just tell them straightforward, I don't care if you are certifying motherhood, I will never sign another petition or circulate another one. I have only been involved in one in my lifetime but I have been involved in other businesses where people are paid a commission for doing whatever they do, in a sales department, as I mentioned before, Avon, and they go door to door and they're certainly not paid by the hour. It brings to mind during the Jaksha petition drive this last year, I went to several dinners that were held in Omaha by organizations and they would set up a long table and have the petitions there for people to sign with circulators sitting there, and I am wondering how we are going to...if they are being paid, I know there are times when they are strictly volunteers and will do this absolutely with no pay, and I might add the two petitions...the petition drive that I was involved in, I didn't even get gasoline money even though I traveled through 33 counties and never got paid one cent. I did it because it was something that I felt was important to the state. But if we are going to do that, what are we going to do about these six people or three people or two people sitting at a table at a festival in Omaha, are we going to be paying both of them by the hour, or they may be volunteers. In most cases, they are volunteers and not paid. But it is going to cause a lot of problem and the people that are hired to do this work and paid to do this work should definitely be paid not by the hour